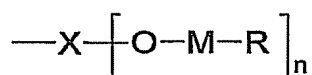


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An antifouling coating composition comprising 20-100% by weight, calculated on the total amount of film-forming components, of a film-forming polymer (A) having an acid number of from 25 to 350mg KOH/g and having an acrylic backbone bearing at least one terminal group of the formula:



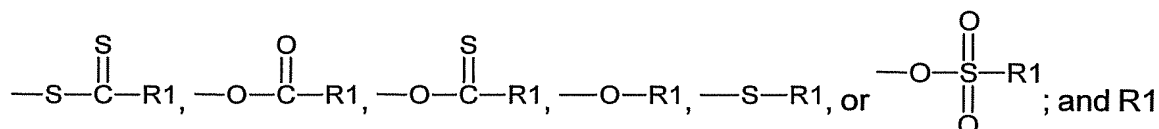
wherein X represents



M is Cu, Zn or Te;

n is an integer of 1 when X is $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ -\text{C}- \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} \text{S} \\ \parallel \\ -\text{C}- \end{array}$, or $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ -\text{P}- \end{array}$, or 1 to 2 when X is $\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ -\text{P}- \end{array}$;

R represents an organic residue selected from



is a monovalent organic residue, and

a copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms, said biocide comprising one or more of cuprous oxide, cuprous thiocyanate, cuprous sulphate and copper pyrithione; wherein the antifouling coating composition comprises less than 1 wt.% of biocidal zinc compounds and less than 1 wt.% of rosin, and the copper-based biocide has a metallic copper content below 2% by weight, based on the total weight of the copper-based biocide.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the film-forming polymer (A) is an acrylic polymer in which X represents

$\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{C—}$, M is copper and R represents $\text{—O—}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{C—R1}$ wherein R1 is a monovalent organic residue.

4. (Previously Presented) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms comprises cuprous oxide having a metallic copper content below 2 % by weight, based on the total weight of the cuprous oxide.

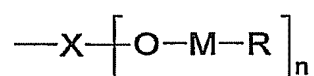
5. (Previously Presented) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 4, wherein the cuprous oxide has a metallic copper content below 1% by weight, based on the total weight of the cuprous oxide.

6. (Previously Presented) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms comprises copper pyrithione.

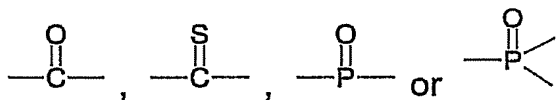
7. (Previously Presented) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 6, characterised in that the copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms comprises a combination of cuprous oxide having a metallic copper content below 2 % by weight, based on the total weight of the cuprous oxide and copper pyrithione.

8. (Previously Presented) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the film-forming polymer (A) is an acrylic polymer in which X represents $\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}\text{C—}$, M is copper, and R is the residue of an organic monobasic carboxylic acid which has a boiling point greater than 115°C and an acid value between 50 and 950mg KOH/gram, wherein the copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms comprises a combination of cuprous oxide having a metallic copper content below 2 % by weight, based on the total weight of the cuprous oxide and copper pyrithione.

9. (Previously Presented) A process for protecting a man-made structure to be immersed in a fouling aquatic environment, said process comprising the step of applying the antifouling coating composition according to claim 1 to said structure.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Previously Presented) A man-made structure immersed in an fouling aquatic environment coated with a coating composition according to claim 1.
12. (Original) The man-made structure of claim 11 which is immersed in a low-salinity aquatic environment.
13. (Original) The man-made structure of claim 11 wherein the structure is immersed in a low-salinity aquatic environment for part of its life and in a saline aquatic environment for part of its life.
14. (Previously Presented) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the copper-based biocide has a metallic copper content below 1% by weight based on the total weight of the copper-based biocide.
15. (Previously Presented) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the copper-based biocide has a metallic copper content below 0.8% by weight based on the total weight of the copper-based biocide.
16. (Currently Amended) An antifouling coating composition comprising 20-100% by weight, calculated on the total amount of film-forming components, of a film-forming polymer (A) having an acid number of from 25 to 350 mg KOH/g and having an acrylic backbone bearing at least one terminal group of the formula:



wherein X represents



M is Cu, Zn or Te;

n is an integer of 1 when X is $\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{C}}}\text{—}$, $\text{—}\overset{\text{S}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{C}}}\text{—}$, or $\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{P}}}\text{—}$, or 1 to 2 when X is $\text{—}\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{P}}}(\text{—})_2$;

R represents an organic residue OC(=O)R' , wherein said the residue is of an organic monobasic carboxylic acid which has a boiling point greater than 115°C and an acid value between 50 and 950mg KOH/g; and

a copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms;

wherein the antifouling coating composition comprises less than 1 wt.% of any biocidal zinc compounds and less than 1 wt.% of rosin, and in that the copper-based biocide has a metallic copper content below 2% by weight, based on the total weight of the copper-based biocide, said biocide comprising cuprous oxide having a metallic copper content below 2% by weight, based on the total weight of cuprous oxide.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises 80 – 0% by weight, calculated on the total amount of film-forming components of film-forming polymer (B), wherein said polymer (B) is selected from polymers which are free of —X-[O-M-R]_n terminal groups but which are slightly water soluble, water-sensitive, or insoluble in water, and further wherein:

when said polymer (B) is slightly soluble or water sensitive, said polymer (B) is selected from the group consisting of: polyvinyl methyl ether; polyvinyl ethyl ether; alkyd resins; modified alkyd resins; polyurethanes; saturated polyester resins; and, poly-N-vinyl pyrrolidones; and

when said polymer (B) is insoluble in water it is selected from the group consisting of: modified alkyd resins; epoxy polymers; epoxy esters; epoxy urethanes; polyurethanes; linseed oil, castor oil, soy bean oil and derivatives of such oils; vinyl ether polymer; and, polyamine.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 16, wherein the composition comprises 80 – 0% by weight, calculated on the total amount of film-forming components of film-forming polymer (B), wherein said polymer (B) is selected from

polymers which are free of $-X-[O-M-R]_n$ terminal groups but which are slightly water soluble, water-sensitive, or insoluble in water, and further wherein:

when said polymer (B) is slightly soluble or water sensitive, said polymer (B) is selected from the group consisting of: polyvinyl methyl ether; polyvinyl ethyl ether; alkyd resins; modified alkyd resins; polyurethanes; saturated polyester resins; and, poly-N-vinyl pyrrolidones; and

when said polymer (B) is insoluble in water it is selected from the group consisting of: modified alkyd resins; epoxy polymers; epoxy esters; epoxy urethanes; polyurethanes; linseed oil, castor oil, soy bean oil and derivatives of such oils; vinyl ether polymer; and, polyamine.